

CDC Vital Signs

Motor Vehicle Crash Injuries

This program is presented by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Motor vehicle crashes are costly and preventable. More than two and a half million Americans went to an emergency department for crash injuries in 2012. These injuries totaled 18 billion dollars in lifetime medical costs and an estimated 33 billion dollars in lifetime work lost. While these numbers are disturbing, there are effective measures that can help prevent motor vehicle injuries.

State-level changes are especially effective. State officials can consider using proven interventions that increase the use of car seats, booster seats, and seat belts; reduce drinking and driving; and improve teen driver safety.

Everyone can use seat belts on every trip, no matter how short, and buckle children in the back seat in age- and size- appropriate car seats, booster seats, and seat belts. Because Americans take so many car trips, everyone is at risk for motor vehicle injuries.

To learn more, visit cdc.gov/vitalsigns.

For the most accurate health information, visit www.cdc.gov or call 1-800-CDC-INFO.